

# Fiscal TOPICS

Published January 2014



## Environment First Fund

The 2000 General Assembly established the Environment First Fund in SF 2453 (FY 2001 Infrastructure Appropriations Act) to provide funding for protection, conservation, enhancement, and improvement of natural resources and established a standing appropriation of \$35.0 million for the Fund beginning in FY 2001 from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund (RIIF). The funding levels have fluctuated over the years. The standing appropriation was changed to \$42.0 million for FY 2014. See funding details below followed by a brief description of major programs.

### Environment First Fund Appropriations History

	Actual FY 2010	Actual FY 2011	Actual FY 2012	Actual FY 2013	Estimated FY 2014
<b>Agriculture and Land Stewardship</b>					
Conservation Reserve Enhance - EFF	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Watershed Protection Fund - EFF	2,550,000	1,500,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Farm Management Demo - EFF	800,000	750,000	625,000	625,000	625,000
Agricultural Drainage Wells - EFF	1,500,000	1,250,000	0	550,000	0
Soil & Water Conservation - EFF	0	1,751,600	2,000,000	2,550,000	2,550,000
Conservation Reserve Prog - EFF	1,500,000	1,300,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
So. Iowa Conservation & Dev - EFF	300,000	250,000	0	0	0
Cost Share - EFF	7,000,000	1,050,000	6,300,000	6,650,000	6,650,000
Iowa FFA Foundation - EFF	0	0	25,000	0	0
Local Food & Farm Program - EFF	0	0	75,000	0	0
Loess Hills - EFF	600,000	500,000	475,000	525,000	525,000
<b>Total Agriculture and Land Stewardship</b>	<b>\$ 15,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 9,851,600</b>	<b>\$ 12,400,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,800,000</b>	<b>\$ 13,250,000</b>
<b>Natural Resources</b>					
Volunteers and Keepers of Land - EFF	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Park Operations & Maintenance - EFF	2,470,000	2,470,000	3,210,000	3,710,000	6,360,000
Forestry Health Management - EFF	0	0	100,000	0	0
GIS Information for Watershed - EFF	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000	195,000
Water Quality Monitoring - EFF	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000	2,955,000
Water Quality Protection - EFF	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Animal Feeding Operations - EFF	360,000	608,400	420,000	620,000	1,320,000
Air Quality Monitoring-Ambient - EFF	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000	425,000
Water Quantity - EFF	495,000	495,000	495,000	495,000	495,000
Geological and Water Survey - EFF	0	0	200,000	200,000	200,000
REAP - EFF	18,000,000	15,000,000	12,000,000	12,000,000	16,000,000
Keep Iowa Beautiful - EFF	0	0	0	0	200,000
State Park Volunteer Fund - EFF	0	250,000	0	0	0
Resource Conservation and Dev. - EFF	250,000	150,000	0	0	0
<b>Total Natural Resources Capital</b>	<b>\$ 25,750,000</b>	<b>\$ 23,148,400</b>	<b>\$ 20,600,000</b>	<b>\$ 21,200,000</b>	<b>\$ 28,750,000</b>
<b>Economic Development Authority</b>					
DED Brownfields - EFF	\$ 500,000	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>Total Economic Development Authority</b>	<b>\$ 500,000</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
<b>Total Agriculture and Natural Resources</b>	<b>\$ 42,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 33,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 33,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 35,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 42,000,000</b>

#### More Information

Agriculture and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee: <http://www3.legis.state.ia.us/ga/committee.do?id=33>

LSA Staff Contact: Deb Kozel (515-281-6767) [deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:deb.kozel@legis.iowa.gov)

### Description of Major Programs

[Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) – provides funds for wetlands development.

[Conservation Reserve Program](#) – provides financial incentives to landowners.

[Watershed Protection Program](#) – provides funds to target water quality problems.

[Soil Conservation Cost Share Program](#) – provides funds for permanent soil and water conservation practices.

[Farm Management Demonstration Program](#) – demonstration of crop and livestock management techniques.

[Alternative Drainage System Fund](#) – provides cost-share funds to assist landowners with the closure of agriculture drainage wells.

[Loess Hills Development and Conservation Fund](#) – provides funds to stabilize stream channels and preserve the Loess Hills.

**Southern Iowa Conservation and Development Authority** – provides funds to stabilize stream channels and prevent soil erosion.

[Resource Enhancement and Protection Fund \(REAP\)](#) – as specified in statute.

[State Park Operations and Maintenance](#) – maintenance and related activities.

**Water Quality Protection Fund** – administers the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

[Water Quantity Program](#) – provides information on water usage.

[Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Program](#) – monitors air quality.

**Animal Feeding Operations Program** – provides oversight, technical assistance, and enforcement.

**Resource Conservation and Development Program** – provides funds to local resource conservation and development groups when a dollar-to-dollar match is provided.

[Keep Iowa Beautiful](#) – provides funding for the Hometown Pride Program that will hire community coaches to provide technical assistance to selected counties and communities to implement cultural vitality, infrastructure, image, and sustainability plans.

**Brownfields Development Program** – provides funds to clean contaminated commercial sites.